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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 9880
INFO RUEHUB/USINT HAVANA 0041

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STATE FOR R/MR, I/PP, WHA/BSC, WHA/PDA, WHA/CCA
STATE FOR INR/IAA, PM, INL

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [OPRC](#) [KPAO](#) [KMDR](#) [PHUM](#) [PGOV](#) [CI](#)

SUBJECT: MEDIA REACTION - CUBA: CASTRO TRANSITION

¶1. On August 27, private TV channel Chilevision international pundit Raul Sohr commented about U.S. policy towards Cuba, drawing on a recent DVC at Embassy Santiago with A/S Shannon. Sohr stated:

¶2. "The United States is carrying out a very complicated policy towards Cuba. On one hand, the highest U.S. diplomat for Latin America, Tom Shannon, has said that the United States is willing to lift the embargo if Cuba initiates a series of political reforms, liberates political prisoners, and allows the existence of independent political parties and moves towards free elections, which sounds reasonable. In exchange for this, the United States would begin to lift the embargo."

¶3. "What is not acceptable is that in parallel to this, the United States designates a mission director for Cuba and Venezuela, a top level member of the CIA whose main responsibility is to gather information and determine a strategy towards Cuba and Venezuela. This obviously does not stimulate change by Cuba. The only thing it can produce is opposition to negotiations with the United States. These are mixed signals that are very contradictory."

KELLY